

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3302

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJECT: LITTON PROPOSAL ON KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND
CONTROL

REF: (A) KUWAIT 0821, (B) STATE 54973 (NOTAL).

1. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS PROPRIETARY INFORMATION, SUPPLIED
BY LITTON DATA SYSTEMS, WHICH SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED TO
OTHER FIRMS.

2. LITTON TEAM RETURNED TO KUWAIT (MAY 21-25) AND PRESENTED
AND DISCUSSED WITH KAF AND USLOK REPS A WRITTEN SUMMARY
PROPOSAL FOR INTEGRATION OF COMMAND AND CONTROL OF
KUWAITI AIR DEFENSE ASSETS. THE PROPOSAL IS TWO-STAGED:
THE FIRST WOULD INTEGRATE PRESENT ASSETS AND THE SECOND WOULD
LINK UP ASSETS PLANNED BUT NOT YET PURCHASED -- BOTH CATEGORIES
OF ASSETS ARE DESCRIBED IN REF A. THE SECOND STAGE WOULD
INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RADARS AND COMMUNICATION AND OTHER
EQUIPMENT IN HARDENED SITES. LITTON INFORMED USLOK
INFORMALLY THAT THE PRICE TAG FOR FIRST STAGE WOULD BE
ABOUT \$50 MILLION AND THAT THE SECOND STAGE WOULD BE
ROUGHLY \$300 TO \$400 MILLION, DEPENDING UPON DETAILED
KUWAITI REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, NO PRICE TAGS WERE
BROACHED TO THE GOK AT THIS STAGE.

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3. THE FIRST PHASE (WHICH COULD STAND ALONE AND BE
OPERATIONAL) WOULD LAST 18-24 MONTHS AND WOULD ADD THE
FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT TO THE KUWAITI INVENTORY: ONE "GROUP
LEVEL" AN/TSQ-73 WITH 6 TO 8 ADDITIONAL CONSOLES TO BE
EMPLOYED AS AN AIR OPERATIONS CENTER WITH MANUAL CONTROL
CAPABILITY -- THE KAF ALREADY OWNS AN AN/TSQ-73 -- TWO

CLUTTER FILTER SYSTEMS, TWO COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS AND TWO RADIO SHELTERS.

4. THE SECOND STAGE, WHICH WOULD NOT GET UNDERWAY UNTIL THE FIRST HAD BEEN PARTIALLY COMPLETED, WOULD TAKE 36-60 MONTHS. THE SECOND STAGE WOULD INVOLVE NOT ONLY PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT BUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL TRAINING AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT CAPABILITIES AND DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES, RESULTING IN HIGHLY AUTOMATED COMMAND AND CONTROL OF MISSILE, GUN AND INTERCEPTOR ASSETS.

5. DURING LITTON-KAF DISCUSSION, KAF OFFICER INQUIRED AGAIN WHETHER THERE WERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON PROVISION TO THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS OF DATA REGARDING THE TSQ-73 AND OTHER PLANNED COMMAND AND CONTROL EQUIPMENT. LITTON REFERRED THEM TO THE USG.

6. KAF OFFICERS TOLD LITTON THAT THEY WOULD BE STUDYING LITTON AND OTHER PROPOSALS -- THOMPSON WAS MENTIONED -- AND WOULD BE READY TO STATE SPECIFIC KUWAITI REQUIREMENTS IN JULY 1978, TELLING LITTON TO WAIT TO BE CONTACTED.

7. ACTION REQUESTED. LITTON REPS TOLD USLOK THAT DEPARTMENT HAD INSTRUCTED THEM NOT TO DISCUSS THE L-2000 RADAR IFF INTEGRATOR WITH THE GOK (WHICH THEY DID NOT DO) EVEN THOUGH THE CLUTTER FILTER SYSTEMS MENTIONED PARA. 3
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CONTAIN THESE INTEGRATORS AND DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL HAD BEEN OBTAINED TO DISCUSS THE SYSTEMS WITH THE KUWAITIS. REQUEST DEPARTMENT INFORM EMBASSY WHETHER THERE IS OBJECTION TO RELEASING THE L-2000 TO KUWAIT.

8. COMMENT: AT PRESENT, THE KAF APPEARS TO BE IN A DOUBLE FINANCIAL BIND, ACCOUNTING FOR ITS FAILURE TO PRESS LITTON FOR A FULLY PRICED PROPOSAL, DESPITE A SENSE OF URGENCY WITHIN THE KAF TO GET ON WITH COMMAND AND CONTROL. THE KAF SEEMS TO BE SUBJECT TO BOTH THE NORMAL END-OF-FISCAL-YEAR CONSTRAINTS AND TO A GENERAL GO-SLOW APPROACH ON PROCUREMENT IMPLEMENTED BY THE NEW DEF MIN, UNDER THE RUBRIC OF A GENERAL REVIEW OF PROCUREMENT POLICY. SINCE THE NEED FOR INTEGRATION OF AIR DEFENSE ASSETS IS SO CLEAR, HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT THESE OBSTACLES TO BE OVERCOME WITH TIME, AND IT STILL APPEARS THAT LITTON HAS THE INSIDE TRACK ON THIS POTENTIAL SALE.
SUTHERLAND

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